(c) how many of the members of the Franchise Committee are Government Officers and how many are retired officers;

(d) whether they had any special reason for having so many retired officials in the committee;

(e) what the terms of reference are of the committee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):*

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Two of them are Government Officers and three are retired officers.

(d) It was because they were undoubtedly some of the most competent persons for this job that they were selected.

(e) The terms of reference were published in the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 6th Makaram 1121 (19th January 1946).

FRANCHISE COMMITTEE

443. Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) how much time was taken by the last Franchise Committee to do their work and submit report;

(b) how much time did Government take to pass order on the Franchise Committee's report;

(c) when does Government propose to appoint the next Franchise Committee?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):*

(a) Three months and three days.

(b) 21 days.

(c) The Committee was appointed on 12th January 1946.

FRANCHISE COMMITTEE

444. Mr. P. K. Paul *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

is there any particular reason why women representatives are totally excluded in the important Committee on Franchise?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government)*

Government are sure that even without a woman on the Committee the interests of women in this matter will not suffer. Therefore a lady was not specially nominated to the body.

VERUMPATTAMDARS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

445. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

what is the date on which the Bill to amend the Cochin Verumpattamdars Act entitling the defaulting tenant to deposit the suit arrears etc, and get the condonation of the forfeiture incurred was passed by the Council?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):*

On 29th November 1945/14th Vrischigam 1121.

ELECTION TRIBUNALS—FINDING OF

446. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):*

Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) has the election tribunal pronounced their finding in the Election Court regarding the election petitions in the Nellayi, Trichur-Women and Mattancheri (Muslim) Constituencies and if so on which date;

(b) has the tribunal submitted its report regarding the petitions in (a) to Government, if so on which date?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):*

(a) It apears that the Commissioners mentioned in court on the 5th Dhanu 1121 (20th December 1945) their conclusions in the above three cases.

(b) They submitted their reports on 20th December 1945 and orders thereon have already been issued by Government.

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